



News Release

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Released: February 1, 2016

SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY

According to the Virginia Field Office of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service sheep and lamb inventories are unchanged but goat inventories increased in Virginia from last year.

The total number of sheep in Virginia on January 1, 2016, was estimated at 75,000 head, unchanged from the previous year's estimate. All breeding sheep and lambs were estimated at 60,000 head and all market sheep and lambs were estimated at 15,000 head. Breeding ewes remained at 50,000 head, and breeding rams remained at 3,000 head. Replacement lambs numbered 7,000, a decrease of 2,000 from 2015. Lamb crop for 2015 increased by 3,000 from last year to 58,000 head.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2016 totaled 5.32 million head, up 1 percent from 2015. Breeding sheep inventory at 3.97 million head on January 1, 2016, increased 1 percent from 3.94 million head on January 1, 2015. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.13 million head, were slightly above last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2016 totaled 1.36 million head, up 1 percent from January 1, 2015. Market lambs comprised 94 percent of the total market inventory. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6 percent of total market inventory. The 2015 lamb crop of 3.44 million head was unchanged from 2014. The 2015 lambing rate was 111 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2015, also unchanged from 2014.

GOAT INVENTORY

All meat and other goats in Virginia were estimated at 47,000 head, up 1,000 head from January 2015. Milk goats at 5,700 head, were up 1,200 head from the previous year's estimate.

All goat inventory in the United States on January 1, 2016 totaled 2.62 million head, down 1 percent from 2015. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.16 million head, down 1 percent from 2015. Does one year old and older, at 1.61 million head, were 2 percent below last year's number. Market goats and kids totaled 459 thousand head, down 1 percent from a year ago. Kid crop for 2015 totaled 1.68 million head for all goats, down 2 percent from 2014. Meat and all other goats totaled 2.10 million head on January 1, 2016, down 1 percent from 2015. Milk goat inventory was 375 thousand head, up 3 percent from January 1, 2015, while Angora goats were down 6 percent, totaling 150 thousand head.